

MARCH 6, 2026

UNIFORM 506

Quarterly Newsletter for Members of Unifor Local 506



WHAT'S NEW AT UNIFOR 506:

- Telco Workers Alliance
- Family Education Program
- New Collective Agreements
- Trustee Committee
- Lawtons Discount Program
- Region 4 ATV Run
- Safety Reps/Stewards Needed
- 2026 Bursary/Scholarships
- Provincial Budget Meeting
- Retirements/New Members
- Committee Chairs Wanted

STOP SHIPPING CANADIAN JOBS OVERSEAS

A new alliance of telecommunications workers is denouncing the offshoring of thousands of Canadian jobs by major telecommunications corporations, to the detriment of the Canadian economy, as well as Canadians' privacy, security and sovereignty.

The Canadian Telecommunications Workers Alliance - a coalition of Unifor, the United Steelworkers of Canada and CUPE, three of Canada's largest unions - is sounding the alarm about this growing crisis and demanding legislation from the federal government to protect Canadians' jobs, privacy, and the security of Canada's telecommunications infrastructure.

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STOP SHIPPING CANADIAN JOBS OVERSEAS

Over the last ten years, almost 20,000 jobs in the telecommunications sector have been outsourced abroad to the United States, India, the Philippines, Egypt, and others.

Canada is not only losing thousands of jobs, but the offshoring of services is putting Canadians' data in danger, as large telecommunications companies use subcontractors abroad who aren't subject to Canada's rules and protections, and entrust them with instant access to Canadians' personal data.

The telecommunications sector is an essential sector for Canada's security and sovereignty, and a vital component of our national infrastructure. Canada, simply put, would not function without it. We cannot allow it to be compromised by increasing foreign operational control.



"We cannot build a resilient economy while shipping essential work overseas. Offshoring telecommunications jobs isn't just a blow to workers, it undermines our digital sovereignty. We are standing together to demand the federal government protect Canadian jobs and ensure our critical infrastructure is operated and secured by Canadian workers," said Lana Payne, Unifor National President.



"In this moment where our economy and our sovereignty are facing real threats, we should be doing everything possible to protect good jobs in Canada, rather than rolling over and letting big telcos hollow out our communities and ship livelihoods overseas," said Mark Hancock, National President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).



"Telecommunications is critical national infrastructure. When jobs in this sector are offshored, it doesn't just hurt workers – it weakens accountability and puts Canadians' privacy at risk. Protecting good telecom jobs in Canada is inseparable from protecting our data, our security, and our digital sovereignty," said United Steelworkers (USW) National Director Marty Warren.

Together, the Alliance represents more than 1.3 million workers, including 32,000 workers in the telecommunications sector.

FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Have you ever thought of taking a family holiday with your union?

Do you want a summer vacation where your accommodations, meals and airline travel are paid for?

Do you want some quality time in a resort-like setting where qualified child care staff provide programs for your children?

Do you want to meet people from across Canada and learn about our union, issues facing Canadian families, and enjoy one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world?



If the answer is YES, then you should apply for the 2026 Unifor Family Education Program!

2026 UNIFOR FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Session 1 - Two-Week French - Sunday, July 19th through Friday, July 31st - **Registration Deadline April 24, 2026**

Session 2 - One-Week English - Sunday, August 9th through Sunday, August 16th - **Registration Deadline: Friday March 13, 2026**

Session 3 - One Week English - Sunday, August 16th through Sunday, August 23rd - **Registration Deadline: March 13, 2026**



The program is held at the Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario, on the shores of Lake Huron. For more information on the program, and to obtain an application form, please contact your local shop steward or the union office at unionoffice@unifor506.ca. You can also visit the Education webpage at uniforeducation.org. **Application Deadline for English sessions is March 13th and April 24th for the French session.**

NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

The collective agreements will be printed later this year and a limited amount of hard copies will be available for distribution.



If members wish to receive a copy of the collective agreement booklet after the company has distributed them, they can request one from a shop steward or collect a copy during a union meeting.

The union is currently waiting for the electronic copy of the collective agreement to be finalized.

NEW MEMBERS

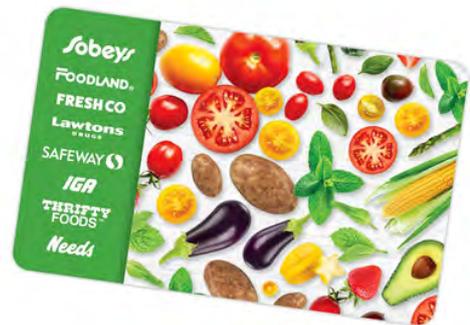
Local 506 welcomes the following new members:

- Frank Laplante
- Bryan Arseneau
- Imagen LeBlanc



CONTEST WINNERS

In the September edition of the Uniform 506 newsletter, we challenged members to find a hidden Unifor logo. Two members were successful in finding the logo; congratulations to Derek White and Anthony Foley, winners of a \$50 Sobeys gift card!



Another Unifor logo  is hidden in this newsletter. Find it and send the location to unionoffice@unifor506.ca and we'll put your name in a draw for a \$50 Sobeys gift card!

REMINDER

If you have a question, an issue you need to discuss, a safety concern, require personal support, or wish to have a union representative at a meeting with the company, please contact us at 506-634-8810 or unionoffice@unifor506.ca

REGION 4 ANNUAL ATV RUN



The 2025 Annual Region 4 ATV Run was held in Saint-Maure, located just outside Balmoral. Participants travelled approximately 80 km, taking in the stunning countryside along the way. A good time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to next year's ATV run!

Region 4 members on the ATV run were Jeff Lynch, Sandy Brideau, Luc Lavallée, Martin Hebert, Serge Roy, Guy Haché, Marc Hervé Losier, Alain Ouellette, Steve Wilmot, Yannic St-Pierre and Cory Wishart.



TRUSTEE COMMITTEE



L-R: Stephen Maynard, Nathan Gregg, and Pierre Levesque

The Trustee Committee met on November 25-26th to review the books for 2024. Following recent retirements, two new Trustee Committee members were appointed and trained; Nathan Gregg from Region One and Pierre Levesque from Region Two. Stephen Maynard from Region Three is the third Trustee Committee member.



Many thanks to Stephen, Pete and Nathan for their hard work and dedication ensuring that we are compliant with our Bylaws and Policies!

LAWTONS DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

The Lawtons Drugs Partner Discount Card Program will be discontinued effective April 30, 2026 and a new enhanced benefits program will launch in August 2026.



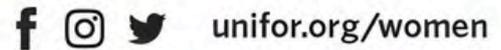
More details and registration information about the new program will be released soon.

Please note that all Lawtons Drugs Partner Discount cards currently in circulation (including those with an expiry date of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2025) will continue to be honoured until April 30, 2026.



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the union office at unionoffice@unifor506.ca.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8 is a day to celebrate achievements toward equality and evaluate where there remains a need for change.



Unifor fights for all workers and their rights at work, at home, and in their community. Regardless of your gender identity or expression, your religion, heritage, ability, sexual orientation or age, everyone deserves equal opportunities to thrive. We must Embrace Equity and celebrate the joy and freedom in inclusion and the intersectional lives of women.

From advocating for equal pay and representation in leadership roles to ensuring access to education and healthcare, International Women's Day calls upon individuals, communities, and organizations to champion the rights of women and girls. It is a day to celebrate diversity and the strength found in unity, emphasizing the importance of lifting each other up and standing together in pursuit of a just and equitable world.



As we celebrate International Women's Day, let us recognize that the journey toward equity is a shared responsibility, one that demands unwavering commitment and solidarity from all of us. Together, we can build a future where every woman is valued, heard, and empowered to reach her full potential.

SAFETY REPS NEEDED



The Local is looking to fill several vacancies for union safety representatives and alternates province-wide.

This role involves conducting regular workplace inspections, identifying potential hazards, and working collaboratively with management to implement safety improvements.



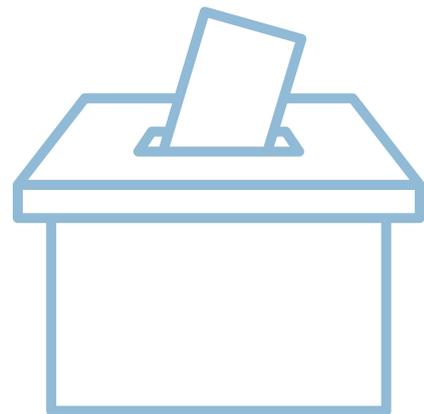
We encourage all interested members with a commitment to promoting a safe and healthy work environment to apply. Training will be provided for all positions, and previous experience in safety roles is an asset but not a requirement. Please contact the union office at unionoffice@unifor506.ca if you are interested in this opportunity. Together, we can ensure a safer workplace for everyone.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET MEETING

On February 18, 2026, members gathered across the province to vote on the 2026 budget, along with proposed amendments to the Local 506 Bylaws and Policies.



The membership have voted in favor of approving the 2026 budget along with the amendments to the Bylaws and Policies.



We thank all members for their participation and as we move forward, we remain dedicated to transparency, collaboration, and the continuous improvement of our union's goals.

STEWARDS NEEDED



The Local has recently appointed and trained four new shop stewards.

- In Miramichi, we have two new stewards: Andrew Grant and Jeffrey Lynch.
- In Fredericton, our new steward is Jacob MacNeil, and in Moncton, Aaron Wood has joined the team.



We welcome Andrew, Jeffrey, Jacob and Aaron to the shop steward team but we still need more stewards in Region 1 - Saint John and Region 2 - Moncton. If you're interested in stepping up to support your fellow members as a shop steward, we encourage you to reach out to the Local office for more information on the role and training opportunities. Becoming a steward is an excellent way to develop leadership skills, stay informed about workplace rights, and contribute to a supportive and fair working environment.

LOCAL 506 BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIPS

Local 506 is now accepting applications for three bursary/scholarships, each worth \$1,200. These awards are available to the children of Unifor Local 506 members who are employed by Bell Aliant and are open to secondary education students in their first to fourth years of study.



Application forms for the following Local 506 Bursary and Scholarship awards are available on the Local 506 website and the deadline for submissions is June 30th.

The Women in Leadership Bursary is open to all applicants regardless of gender and is in memory of sister Helen E. Allain, the first female president of Local 506.

The Day of Remembrance Scholarship honors those members who have lost their lives on the job.

The Truth & Reconciliation Scholarship honors the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Unifor National scholarship applications will be posted on their website in March.

RETIREMENTS



We extend our best wishes to the following members who have recently retired. May your retirement be filled with joy, fulfillment, and new adventures!

- Thomas Gomar - Region 1
- Michael Steele - Region 1
- Keith Johnston - Region 1
- Gordon Wallace - Region 1
- Jeffrey Hayward - Region 1
- Dianne Hodge - Region 1
- Darrell Yeomans - Region 2
- Serge Boudreau - Region 2
- Jean-Claude Gaudet- Region 2
- Andrew Carter - Region 2
- Lawrence McGuigan - Region 3
- Charles Richards - Region 3
- Terry Foster - Region 3
- Luke Cooper - Region 4

— HAPPY —
Retirement

The Local gives retiring members a \$150 gift to celebrate this milestone. If you are retiring in the near future, please contact the union office at unionoffice@unifor506.ca to ensure we have your current mailing address, phone and email information.

WANTED - COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Local 506 is actively looking for members who are interested in leading the Local's Women's Committee, BIWOC (Black Indigenous, Workers of Colour) Committee and LGBTQ Committee. We are seeking passionate individuals who are committed to advocating for worker's rights, promoting equality, and fostering an inclusive environment within our community.



If you have leadership skills and a vision for empowering members in the workplace, we encourage you to consider this rewarding opportunity.



Interested members should reach out to the union office to express their interest and learn more about the responsibilities involved. Together, we can make a significant impact and support our members in meaningful ways.